(b) to (e) On an average, Department of Revenue receives approximately 5000 applications per year for fixation of Brand Rate and there are only 115 and 35 Brand Rate applications pending over 1 year and 6 months respectively. These applications were filed under Normal or Simplified Schemes of Brand Rate. Under Normal Scheme, Brand Rate applications are processed after receipt of Verification Report from jurisdictional Central Excise Commissionerate. However, under both these Schemes, the applicant is required to submit application alongwith details of duty paying documents and evidence about utilisation of inputs in the export product alongwith DBK statements in the prescribed proforma. These applications are pending for want of Verification Report and on account of incomplete data. In order to expedite the issuance of Brand Rate letters, Government has announced a new Simplified Scheme of brand rate from 01.09.2002 which will ensure disposal of all complete applications in time bound manner.

Appointment of dependants of customs employees

2756. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wards of deceased employees of the Department of Customs of Rajkot Region, (including Kandla) whose appointments on compassionate grounds are pending;

(b) by when these wards are likely to be given employment; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite their appointments in view of their pathetic conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Sir, in the Department of Customs of Rajkot (including Kandla), 26 applications are pending for appointment on compassionate grounds. Out of these 26 cases, 12 cases have been placed on the waiting list for compassionate appointment on the basis of the recommendations of a committee appointed for this purpose in accordance with the Revised Consolidated instructions issued in 1998 for the Scheme for Compassionate Appointment under the Central Government. 14 cases are pending for consideration by the Committee.

(b) and (c) Compassionate appointments are regulated under the aforementioned Scheme which has been formulated by Department of Personnel and Training. According to this Scheme, the compassionate appointments can be made upto a maximum of 5% of the vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post. The Group 'C' posts against which appointment on compassionate grounds, are made, are earmarked Commissionerate-wise by the Cadre Control Commissioners. Commissioner, Vadodara-I is the cadre control commissioner for the Gujarat State. No earmarked Group 'C' post or Group 'D' post is vacant. Compassionate appointments of the applicants on the waiting list shall be made as per their turn when vacancies in Group 'C' post or Group 'D' posts arise.

Imprisonment for defaulter auditors

2757. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs is considering enactment of a statute providing for 10 years imprisonment for auditors indulging in professional misconduct;

(b) whether Government would also make it mandatory for auditors to report fund misuse/falsification of ledgers etc., by corporates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Section 227 of the companies Act, 1956 already requires the auditors to report on the accounts being a true and fair view of the state of affairs of a company.

(c) Does not arise.

Forged stamp papers

2758. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that they are losing revenue worth thousands of crores of rupees annually because of wide circulation of forged judicial and non-judicial stamp papers;